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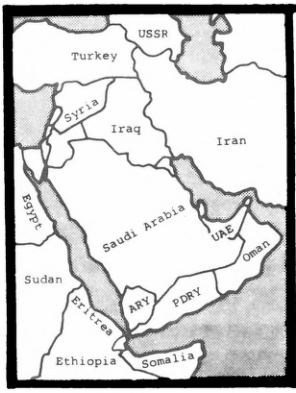


News from Oman

(Dhofar Letter)

No. 33 June 1979

IMPERIALIST RESHUFFLING IN THE GULF AREA

After its unsuccessful reliance on the Shah of Iran the USA is now working energetically to find new ways to impose its system of control in the Gulf area and on the Arabian Peninsula.

However, the USA has already found an alternative to Iran. This alternative is Egypt which is going to replace Iran as the policeman of the area. It is not surprising that Egypt has been chosen to play this role. Egypt has the necessary large population, industrial base, and military tradition. It has the potential to become an ideal sub-imperialistic power if it gets heavy financial support from Saudi Arabia and military support from the USA.

This fast change has only been possible because Egypt already for some time has been under development as an alternative to Iran. Saudi Arabia has in the period following the October war in 1973 financed a heavy build-up of the Egyptian army. This has happened in agreement with the new close alliance between Egypt and the USA. The build-up of the Egyptian army makes it an efficient intervention force which can be employed elsewhere in the Arab world and in Africa. But at the same time the ability of the Egyptian army to fight a war against Israel (which demands other types of sophisticated weapons) has been considerab-

ly reduced. (See a most interesting article in "The Middle East", August 1978: Egypt's "other" armed forces).

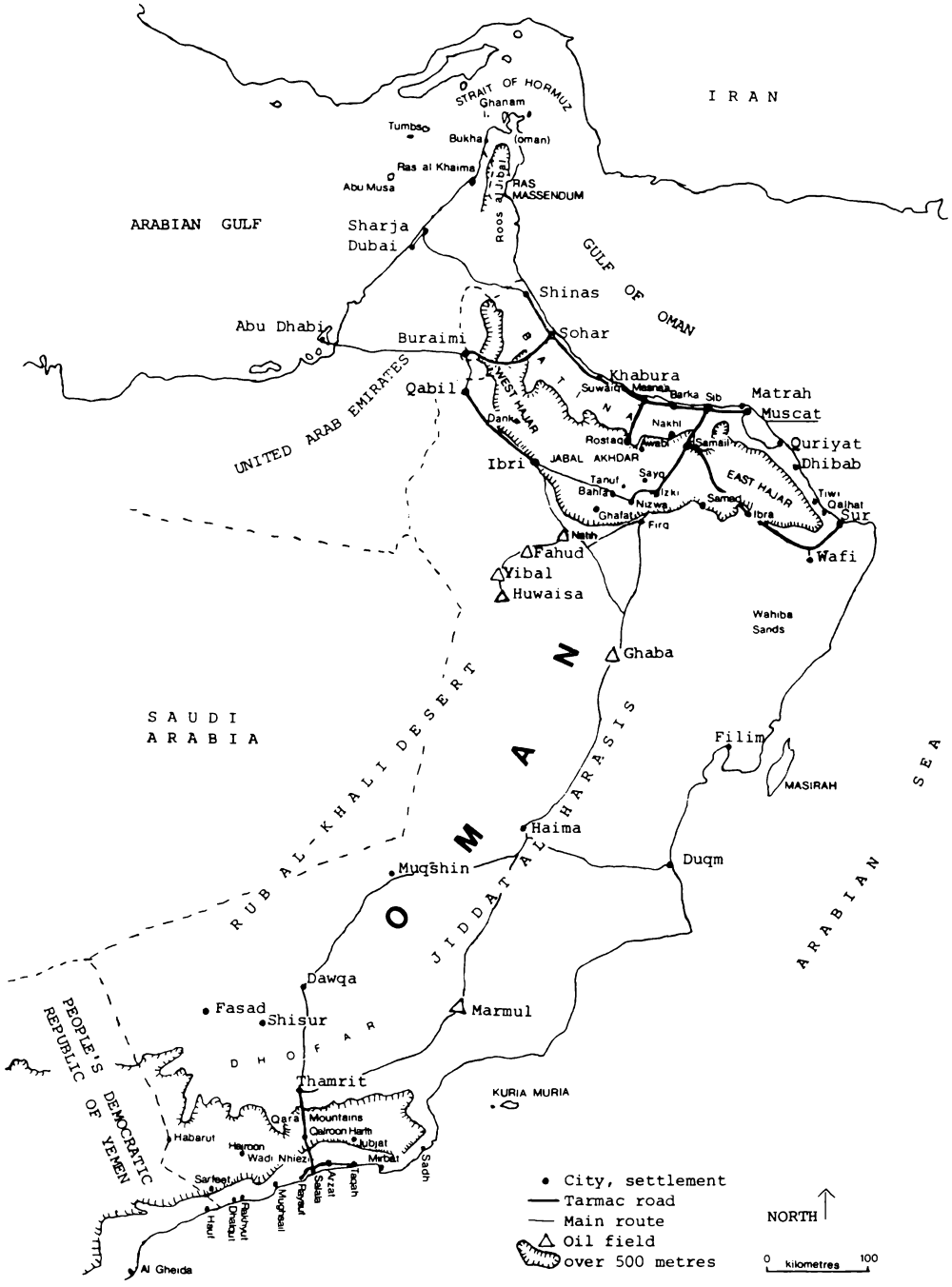
Besides this reshuffle inside the framework of the Nixon-doctrine the development indicates that the USA in the future is going to play a more direct military role in the region in order to be able to rescue its hard pressed allies. It is of course the upheavals in Iran which has made the USA take this step. This development inevitable puts a question mark behind the long term stability of the US system of control in spite of its rapid recovered ability for action. One of the main issues arising from this situation is the stability of the Sadat regime inside Egypt. The visions of future upheavals in Egypt must cause the imperialist strategists many a nightmare, especially after what has happened in Iran. Because of Eypt's unique central position in the Arab world a popular uprising here would no doubt have immense consequences all over the Arab world. But the USA is running the risk and relies on Egypt to do its dirty work.

Egypt has already been asked for military support by Oman and North Yemen, who are the two weakest reactionary regimes on the Arabian Peninsula.

The Situation in Oman

The upheavals in Iran very soon had serious consequences for the regime in Oman. On the 21st of February the Iranian chief of staff, Gharani, stated that it had been decided to recall all the Iranian troops stationed in Oman (Teheran Home Service, reported by the Iraq News Agency and quoted in Summary of World Broadcast 2-23,1979). However, the withdrawal was a little slow. On the 12th of March Teheran radio announced that a team of officers had been sent to Oman to supervise the evacuation of the Iranian troops. Some of the equipment, including helicopters, had already been sent back (SWB 3-14, 79).

This sudden stoppage of the Iranian policy of protection marks the end of an era during which the Iranian military had suppressed the Omani Revolution. This suppression seriously began in December 1973 when 3000 Iranian Special troops landed in Dhofar in the Southern Oman. A period where


IRAN
STRAIT OF HORMUZ
Ghanam I.
Tumbs
Bukha
(Oman)
Ras al Khaima
Abu Musa
RAS MASSENDUM
Ruus al Jibal
ARABIAN GULF
Sharja
Dubai
GULF OF OMAN
Shinas
Abu Dhabi
Buraimi
Sohar
Khabura
Suwaiq
Masnaa
Barka
Sib
Matrah
Muscat
Qabil
WEST HAJAR
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Samail
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Dhibab
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
Ibri
JABAL AKHDAR
Tanuf
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Qalhat
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Fahud
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Ghaba
SAUDI ARABIA
RUB AL-KHALI DESERT
OMAN
JIDDAT AL HARASIS
Filim
MASIRAH
ARABIAN SEA
Haima
Muqshin
Duqm
Dawqa
Fasad
Shisur
Marmul
DHOFAR
PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN
Thamrit
KURIA MURIA
Qara Mountains
Qairoon Hamm
Habarut
Harroon
Wadi Nhiez
Jubjat
Mirbat
Sadh
Arzat
Salala
Taqah
Sarfeet
Rakhyut
Mughsail
Rayzut
Dhalqut
Hauf
Al Gheida
City, settlement
Tarmac road
Main route
Oil field
over 500 metres
NORTH
0
kilometres
100

the presence of Iranian military had been the most essential obstacle to the Omani Revolution has ended, and a period with new contradictions, new kinds of oppression, and new kinds of opposition is under development. As mentioned in the section about the reshuffle of the imperialistic system of control in general, Iran has very rapidly been replaced by Egypt. How this change works in practice can be seen in the case of Oman. The solution for the regime in Muscat still seems to be protection from foreign troops. The rapid landing of the Egyptian troops in Oman shows how important this protection is for Qaboos.

On the 18th of January the PFLO quotes,in its broadcast "Voice of Oman Revolution" from Aden, the weekly magazine "Al-Kifah al-Arabi". The magazine has reported that Qaboos has asked Sadat to send Egyptian troops to take the place of the Iranian forces, and that Washington supports this request (SWB 1-22,79). Already a month later, and at the same time as the withdrawal of the Iranian forces, the Iraq News Agency quotes the newspaper "Al-Wahdah" in Abu Dhabi, which reported that military units from the Egyptian Army have arrived in Oman. The newspaper also reported that Qais Zawawi, the Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, during his visit to Cairo in February 1979, agreed on the final preparations concerning the assigning of Egyptian forces to Oman. After his visit to Cairo the Omani Minister left for the USA (SWB 2-24,79). According to the Libya News Agency, a member of the Central Committee of the PFLO has said at a press conference in Beirut that 5000 to 7000 fully equipped Egyptian soldiers have arrived in Oman to fight the revolutionaries in Dhofar. Furthermore, he said that these forces started pouring into Oman in the end of January, and that they still are increasing in number. He said that the PFLO will resist this military intervention through every possible means, mainly by armed struggle (quoted in SWB 3-15, 1979)

According to the newspaper "Al-Wahdah" of Abu Dhabi on the 26th of April a meeting had taken place in Muscat the day before between Qaboos and Mubarak, Sadat's Vice-President. The result of this meeting was an agreement to station the Egyptian troops on the bases at Masirah Island, at Ras Massendum, and at Thamrit in Dhofar. An agreement was reached on the type and scope of the facilities which the bases

at Masirah and Raś Massendum were to extend to US naval forces in the Arabian Sea. The Oman Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Zawawi, has previously visited both Cairo and Washington to coordinate the security efforts of the three countries (reported by the Iraq News Agency and quoted in SWB 4-28, 1979.

This development proves the efficiency of the imperialistic system of control in the short run. The regime in Muscat has not for a moment been without the necessary military support to secure its existence as shown by the immediate landing of a large number of Egyptian forces in Oman. However, the weak points in this imperialistic strategy are unveiled by the political consequences. The alliance with Egypt is problematic for Qaboos because Egypt is isolated in the Arab world. Because of the military dependence on Egypt, Qaboos has to support Sadat's initiatives while other reactionary regimes in the area can take on a more critical attitude toward Sadat. For example, Oman and Sudan were the only Arab countries missing at the Baghdad meeting following the signing of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. At this meeting a number of sanctions against Egypt were agreed upon (SWB 3-29,79). The alliance between Qaboos and Sadat gets to be even more pronounced by the fact that the number of Egyptian troops probably will exceed the number of Iranian troops that used to be in Oman. The Shah was able to send reinforcements over the Strait of Hormuz in a few hours, Sadat, however has to station a larger number of troops there because of the distance between Egypt and Oman.

The contradictions in Oman will be more marked in the future because of the alliance between Qaboos and Sadat, and because the upheavals in Iran have encouraged the Arab masses in their struggle against the military dictatorships.

However, the time has not yet come to proclaim future victories. The PFLO on their own is not able to defeat the numerous Egyptian troops just as the Front earlier was unable to prevent the Iranian occupation of Oman. The possibility of radical changes of the relative strengths in Oman depends on the development in the region as a whole. The area is characterized by complicated contradictions which makes it impossible to predict what will happen in the future.

PFLO has been strengthened on all levels both militarily, politically, and organization wise. Since the military setback in the beginning of 1976 new cadres have been trained, the military technical skills have improved, and the mass organizations have been strengthened. Therefore the PFLO are able to take advantage of the possibilities that the future will bring.

On the 14th of February the PFLO transmitted the following review of the situation in the area:
"Brothers, the change in the situation in Iran in favour of the people's masses has tilted the balance of power in the region, making US imperialism send its Defence Minister to explore conditions in the Middle East, and particularly in the Arabian Gulf region. Observers have pointed out that Brown, the American Defence Minister, on the basis of this tour of his, which covered Saudi Arabia, Jordan and occupied Palestine, aims at drawing up a new American strategy for the Gulf and Middle East regions. Informed sources say that Brown's trip aims at gathering data for this new strategy now it has become impossible to rely on Iran.

The Zionist Energy Minister last weekend said that Brown would be concerned with the matter of transferring American military assistance from Iran to other states in the region to ensure full production for the American arms industry that is threatened with closure because of the downfall of the Shah's regime and the cancellation of the military contracts that regime concluded with the Washington Government during the past five years, contracts worth 12,000 million dollars.

The English Reuter agency reported that some Zionist officials have intimated that the USA may try to link the Saudi Kingdom, Egypt and Israel in a defence framework as a substitute for Iran. Moreover, the US Defence Minister, who arrived in occupued Palestine yesterday, stressed that the USA and Israel have a joint interest in what he called the stability of the Middle East. He also reaffirmed America's commitment to the security of Israel.

At the same time, within the new strategy of US imperialism in the region following the changes in Iran, America's eyes have turned to Oman which is considered to be the weak link among the reactionary states of the region but has an important strategic position in the designs of imperialism. It

has recently been declared that some of the American intelligence organs which were in Iran have been transferred to Oman and others to Israel.

"Al-Watan al-Arabi", the magazine published in Paris, also reported that the agent Qaboos asked for urgent military assistance from Washington when conditions in Iran (?came to a head) and the end of the Shah's regime, which helped protect the Qaboos regime, drew near. In confirmation of this, former US President Ford visited Muscat recently. Press reports in Kuwait also said that agent Qays az-Zawawi will pay a visit to Washington soon, a visit that falls within the framework of new American moves in the region.

It is worth noting that observers have seen unusual activity over the past weeks by the US Ambassador to Muscat; no day passes without his meeting an official in the Qaboos shadow government.

In the context of the US Defence Minister's tour to Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Israel so far, political observers state that it comes within the framework of drawing up new American plans. These are an attempt to spread America's influence and expand its role in the region after its forces lost the biggest state included in its designs as a tool for implementing and safeguarding its interests and agents. In addition to that, the US minister has explained that the region faces tension, and so US imperialism will strive more and more to (?strengthen its influence) so as to serve its interests and maintain its hegemony in the region. From this same aim also stems the introduction of sophisticated weapons to the region." (Quoted in SWB 2-17,1979).

The Situation in Yemen

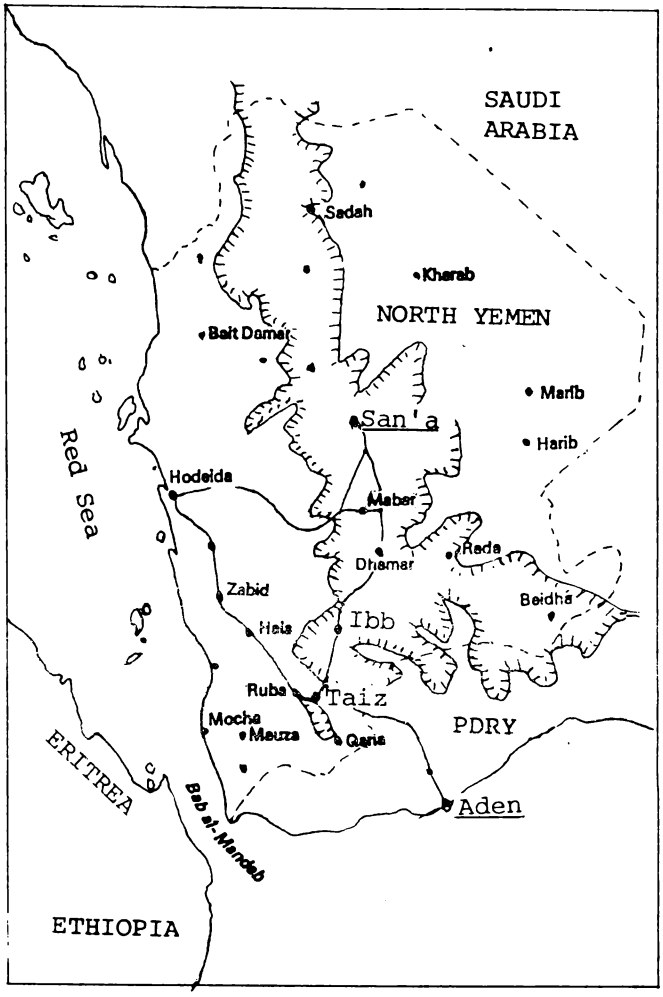
At a summit meeting in Kuwait between Ali Abdullah Salih, the President of North Yemen, and Abd al-Fattah Ismail, Secretary General of the Yemen Socialist Party, it was agreed to unite the two parts of Yemen into one state. The proposal was made by South Yemen. Following the meeting on the 30th of March, 1979, a statement was transmitted over radio Aden and radio Saná concerning the program of unification. The statement contained the following

main issues:
The constitution of the unified state have to be drafted within a period of four months. Then there will be a referendum on the final proposal of the constitution, and if that is approved a unified legislative authority for the new state have to be elected within a period of six months. (quoted in SWB 4-2, 1979).

According to the Kuwait News Agency, Saná will be the capital of the unified state which is to be called the Yemen People's Republic (quoted in SWB 4-2, 1979).

However, a number of difficulties have to be surmounted before the new state can become a reality. The efforts to unite the two parts of Yemen have traditionally been accompanied by violent confrontations in the area. The sudden agreement on unification was rather surprising because the situation today is quite dissimilar to the situation in 1972 when it was agreed to form one Yemeni state after a violent border war between the two countries. Neither is the situation similar to the period in 1977 when Rubai Ali and al-Hamdi held negotiations which resulted in the murder of al-Hamdi (see News from Oman, No.32, January 1979). Today the ideological differences, and the mutual distrust is greater than ever before. Therefore, it is hard to imagine that the two countries should be willing to give up their own positions in favour of common interests. However, the latest developments in North and South Yemen indicate some of the reasons for this sudden agreement.

Two events are well-known from the world press covering of the developments in Yemen: the border war between North and South Yemen in February and March this year, and the recent agreement on a cease-fire followed by the signing of the program for unifying the two countries. What is less known, however, is the fact that both events as far as North Yemen is concerned are the results of the same internal problem: the rapidly growing opposition in North Yemen under the leadership of the Democratic National Front. Since Ali Abd Salih, the tool of the USA and Saudi Arabia, came into power in July, 1978 the opposition has grown considerably stronger (see'News from Oman',No.32). This development has made it increasingly more difficult for Ali Salih to subdue the opposition with his own military resources, and there was imminent danger that he would be overthrown.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PDRY
ERITREA
Aden
Bab al-Mandab
ETHIOPIA

Therefore, it was necessary for Salih's imperialist allies the USA, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt, to get ready to offer him large-scale military support, and furthermore they had to be ready for a direct military invasion in case their military support should turn out to be inadequate. The border war against South Yemen is meant to legitimate such an intervention. However, the border war is caused by the developments inside North Yemen. The Democratic National Front has transmitted a number of reports over radio Aden about fighting between the Front and the Saná regime. The battles have taken place in almost every province of the country. The DNF has liberated areas in the provinces of Beidha, Ibb, and Taizz; in the South-Western and central parts of the country; and furthermore the Front controls the area around the town Harib in the Eastern part of the country. The towns of Beidha and Harib have been captured, and in Saná,the capital, the military bastions of the regime have been attacked. In the liberated areas people's committees have been formed to administrate the areas. The DNF reports that the national tribes have given their full support to the Front, and that parts of the army have joined the revolutionary people's forces and given them all their equipment. (Quoted in SWB 8, 16, 23, 27, and 28, Feb. and 2,5, 8, and 9, March 1979).

An excerpt from a press conference with the DNF in Aden on 28th February about the border war between North and South Yemen is quoted in this way: "The statement stressed that the DNF and the masses of the people rejected the portrayal of the conflict as being the one between the North and South. It said that the conflict was basically one between the Front and the popular masses on the one hand, and the Saná regime and those backing it, namely reaction and imperialism on the other .... When the Saná regime launched armed aggression against the Southern part of the homeland last week, it's aim was to deceive public opinion outside our country and to conceal the true nature of the conflict..." (quoted in SWB 3-2, 1979).

As mentioned, the border war was meant as legitimation for foreign intervention, and this soon became a reality. In the first part of March US aircraft carriers are reported on their way to North Yemen. Medio March the USA presents North Yemen with 500 million dollars worth of

military equipment including 12 F-5 aircrafts. Furthermore, the Kuwait News Agency reports that contacts have been made between the USA and certain Arab states to reach agreement on a joint plan concerning the relationship between the two Yemens. It is added that Egypt has offered to send pilots to fly the F-5 aircrafts which the Carter Administration has given North Yemen (SWB 3-9, 1979).

In spite of this large-scale support from his imperialistic allies the situation did not change much in favour of Ali Salih, and it seemed like only a question of time before a direct military intervention arranged by the USA, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia would be necessary to keep Salih in power. In the light of these developments the efforts to unify the country as far as Salih is concerned primarily becomes an attempt to survive. The main question then becomes whether he is going to follow a short-termed or a long-termed strategy. Is it his aim only to get a much needed breathing-space in the fightings so that he can utilize his new military equipment to improve his positions assisted by the USA? Or is it rather a long-termed attempt to survive which includes an effort to strengthen his popularity by pretending a will to continue the negotiations about a unified Yemen? On the 14th of April the radio of the "Democratic National Front" attacks the Saná Government and accuses the Saudis and the USA of attempting to upset the recent rapprochement between the two Yemens (SWB 4-18,1979).

As for the attitude of the government of South Yemen toward the efforts for unification a number of motives exist. First of all, there is no doubt that South Yemen from a general point of view wants a unified Yemen, but only if the government of North Yemen approves a unified Yemeni state. South Yemen would like such an unification because it could be the beginning of a progressive development in the area (see "News from Oman", No.32). Unification also has wide-spread popular support in both countries. Though the possibility for the creation of an unified Yemen is rather small at the moment the plans may have a unifying effect on the factions within the

leadership of the country. As mentioned in "News from Oman", No.32 there was a split in the leadership in June 1978. On the foreign policy level the efforts to unite may change the isolated position of the country, and help solve the economically and politically oriented problems this isolation has created.

And finally, as a very important external reason, can be mentioned the fact that the rest of the Arab world has put a lot of pressure on the governments of North and South Yemen in recent months in order to find a solution to the problem. It was hardly incidential that the final meeting between Abdul Fattah Ismail and Ali Salih took place in connection with the Baghdad meeting, where the majority of the Arab countries expressed their opposition to Sadat. Even though it is provisional tactical reasons which is the base for this unity in the Arab world, and though the unity conceales widely different interests everybody, however, are interested in emphasizing it right now.

IRAN IN REVOLUTION

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"INTENSIVE POLITICAL INITIATIVE" BY THE PFLO

On the 2nd May 1979 Aden voice of Oman Revolution transmitted the following:

"Brothers, the victory of the Iranian revolution has brought about a great (word indistinct) in the treacherous (?agent) policy being pursued by the rulers of Muscat. Moreover, the agents in Muscat now feel themselves unable to stand up to the Omani masses and their armed revolution. This has heightened their fear and panic, which explains why they are crying out for help. The regime sent several delegations to visit a number of Arab and foreign capitals, which resulted in an American build-up in Ra's (?Musalaam) in addition to Masirah Island. The British have also begun to reinforce their military and political presence. As for the traitor, Sadat, he sent a force of 15,000 soldiers. All these (word indistinct) took place in the wake of the downfall of the regime of the Shah.

It was very natural for the PFLO to take action to explain the dimensions of this (?hysteria) and (word indistinct). Several high-level delegations from the Front undertook an intensive political initiative, beginning with a press conference in Beirut at which many representatives of news agencies and correspondents of Arab and world newspapers and magazines heard a political statement issued by the Central Executive Committee. The delegation which gave the conference also held a series of meetings and talks with groups of the Palestine Resistance and the Lebanese nationalist movement.

The PFLO Central Executive Committee received an official invitation from the Soviet Government to visit the friendly USSR. Accordingly a high-level delegation led by Comrade Abd al-Aziz al-Qadi, Chairman of the Central Executive Committee, responded to this invitation and paid an official visit to the friendly USSR. Comrade Abd al-Aziz al-Qadi subsequently expressed his deep satisfaction at the results of the visit.

Another delegation, led by Comrade Abd al-Hafiz Jum'an, member of the Central Executive Committee in charge of Foreign Relations, is paying an official visit to sister-

ly Algeria in response to an invitation by the Central Executive Committee of the Algerian FLN. This delegation will hold a series of talks with leaders of the Algerian revolution.

Yet another high-level delegation, led by Comrade Muhammad Ahmad (?al-Ghassani), member of the Central Executive Committee, is currently paying an official visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran in response to the invitation received by the Central Executive Committee from the Islamic Government. During its stay there the delegation is scheduled to meet a number of officials of the Islamic Government and will also meet Ayatollah Khomayni at his residence in the holy city of Qom.

Another delegation from the Popular Front visited the SPLAJ, the Iraqi Republic and the Syrian Arab Republic earlier this month.

Brothers, the purpose of these intensive political moves undertaken by the leadership of the revolution is basically to explain the dimensions of the Egyptian military intervention, the increased British and US military presence in our country and its consequences - namely a serious threat to the security and stability not only of our country, but to the Arabian Gulf and Peninsula, the Middle East region and the world as a whole.

The leadership of the revolution has been paying special attention to its allies and friends: these visits are not the first to be paid by the Front. They are of the utmost importance in that they come in the wake of the great victory achieved by the Iranian people. They also follow the signing by the traitor Anwar as-Sadat of the treacherous treaty - a matter that necessitated the holding of meetings and consultations with the friends of the revolution and its allies both in the Arab region and in the states of the socialist camp, headed by the friendly USSR. There is no doubt that these meetings and consultations will help reinforce and cement militant relations in the joint struggle against imperialism, Zionism and reaction. These consultations will also lead to the consolidation of our national and pan-Arab struggle against our enemies - the imperialists, Zionists and Arab reactionaries. Let there be more meetings and consultations between the revolution and its

allies and friends. Let the bonds of struggle and internationalist relations be reinforced in the joint struggle against imperialism, Zionism and reaction and for the sake of liberation, social progress, democracy and peace". (SWB 5-7,1979).

APPEAL TO THE EGYPTIAN TROOPS IN OMAN

On the 20th May 1979 Aden Voice of Oman Revolution transmitted this appeal:

"Heroes of the glorious July revolution, you who smashed the myth and might of the arch-enemy of our Arab nation by your penetration of the Bar Lev line in the glorious October war, you who, through your indomitable will and faith in the Arabism of Egypt's soil then desecrated by the banners of the Zionists, taught the Israeli generals never-to-be-forgotten lessons, from revolutionary Oman we speak to you. Through the Voice of the Revolution we address to you this appeal in our Arabic language and with a single pan-Arab spirit. We would like to greet you as our Arab brothers, not as enemies. The guns of our revolutionaries are used to being aimed at the enemies of our country, the lackeys of the agent Qaboos and his clique, who benefit by the existence of his throne, and at the enemies of our Arab nation.

The deposed Shah tried to protect Qaboos's throne by his military power. However, (?his defeat)(words indistinct) and the victory of the people's revolution in Iran prevented the continuance of the presence of the Iranian army. To protect his throne (words indistinct) Qaboos sought help from the traitor of the Arab nation, Sadat, who in turn sent you to Oman to wage war on your brothers in Arabism. Whom does it profit when an Arab fights his Arab brother? You know we are not killers but rather the possessors of a right and a cause. And you are not invaders because you are in an Arab country. However, we caution you that Sadat sent you to Oman as tools to implement some of the designs of his American masters ...

Do you know what is now happening in Arab Egypt? The number of fighters in the prisons of Sadat has doubled. The degree of terror has reached the point where there are road blocks on the streets of Cairo and other Egyptian cities to search

the pedestrians and, very often, check on identities...

Your sons, brothers and relatives in the various universities of Cairo raise their voices every day to condemn the treasonous accord for which Sadat alone has been paid. By signing it he trampled Arab dignity under foot and sold Jerusalem. Yes, he sold Jerusalem to the enemy of our Arab nation, against whom you have waged holy wars. Thousands of you fell as martyrs in the liberation of our usurped territories. Remember that the Sadat who surrendered to the Zionists by signing the capitulatory accord is the same Sadat who sent you to wage war on your brothers in Arabism ..." (SWB 5-23, 1979).

14th ANNIVERSARY OF THE OMAN REVOLUTION

On the 9th June Aden Voice of Oman Revolution transmitted the following statement from the PFLO:

"On 9th June the Oman revolution bids farewell to its 14th anniversary and welcomes a new year in its long and militant march along the road to the achievement of the national objectives of the Oman people and contribution to the march of the pan-Arab struggle for liberation, starting with Palestine. The start of the revolution in 1965 represented the most important and serious event in the history of the Oman people. The start of the revolution meant a great deal to the masses of the region in general and to the masses of our Omani people in particular, despite its shortcomings at the beginning such as regionalism and tribalism; but the revolution overcame those later.

The start of the revolution meant a great deal, but its continuity and the gains and achievements it has secured have meant much more. While the masses of Oman look on this revolution as an object of hope, affection and appreciation and have been giving it the factors of continuation and steadfastness, the enemies of the freedom of these masses and the enemies of their hopes and aspirations have been frightened by this revolution and see in it a danger to themselves and to their very important and vital interests in this region. For this reason they have been plotting against it and working for its failure.

For these reasons they mobilized their forces and the most destructive and deadly of their weapons, but they failed to kill it. They then turned to attempting to (?destroy) it from within but they failed again. They then spread rumours about and propaganda against the revolution, but again they failed.

The revolution remained, in spite of all blows and in spite of its military losses; the revolution survived because it was the cause of life, honour and dignity for our Omani people. The cause will survive as long as the people survive.

The military setback suffered by the Oman revolution in 1975, which the agents and their imperialist masters (?claimed) to be the ultimate victory, was no more than the shock necessary for the revolution to awaken and be able to cleanse itself of the flaws and defects attached to it, which constituted the principal cause of that setback.

The revolution had regained consciousness and wakefulness and has worked since then to cleanse itself of those flaws and defects and translated its consciousness into the programme drawn up by its leader, the self-building programme that has yielded positive fruits on all the internal and external, local, Arab and international planes. These fruits are represented by the organizational, political and internal ideological unity of the revolution and by the steps taken to continue the revolutionary war on the organizational, political and military planes.

The Oman revolution raised, in its 14th year of existence, the banner of routing the Iranian invaders. This objective has now been achieved thanks to the victory of the great Iranian revolution. The Oman revolution also played an important role here; the revolution provided, through the struggle in the Oman arena against the Shah's forces, one of the factors leading to the downfall of the agent Shah's regime.

There is no doubt that our people scored one of their victories and achieved one of their goals by the withdrawal of the Iranian forces from Oman and the fall of the Pahlavi regime, but the imperialist have not given up nor will they surrender easily to our people.

Now they are placing before us a new enemy and new tasks. They are throwing in the Egyptian people to fight our people. Although our people are concerned that no Arab blood shall be shed by Arab hands, they are still compelled to fight Sadat's armies. Just as the Oman revolution played a role and contributed to the overthrow of the Shah's regime, it will certainly contribute to the overthrow of traitor Sadat, this time through the ruin of the puppet Qabus.

Our slogan this year will be: let us intensify the struggle to rout the traitors and the agents in Oman territory, as represented by the regimes of Sadat and Qabus and their repressive forces and for the liquidation of the British and American bases and forces in our country."(SWB 6-12, 1979).

PFLO AND THE PALESTINIAN REVOLUTION

A delegation from the PDFLP, headed by Naif Hawatimah, visited Democratic Yemen in October 1978. The delegation held talks with the PFLO, and expressed their support to the heroic struggle of the Omani people under the leadership of the PFLO (Saut Al Thawra, No.24, December 1978).

A delegation from the PFLP, headed by George Habash, visited Democratic Yemen in November 1978 and held a number of talks with the Yemen Socialist Party. In a joint statement at the end of the visit, both parts expressed their ".. support to the struggles of the Omani people under the leadership of the PFLO for creating a free and independent Oman." (Saut Al Thawra, No.26, January 1979).

In the end of February Jasir Arafat sent a telegram to the PFLO, thanking them for their telegram of congratulation on the occasion of the 14th Anniversary of the Palestinian revolution (Voice of Palestine, cited in SWB 8th Feb. 1979).

3 ISLANDS IN THE GULF ARE RETURNED

On the 1st of April, 1979 the Kuwait newspaper "As-Siyassah" published an interview with Khomeyni's representative in Washington, Shahrayar Rouhani, who suggested that Iran would return the 3 Arab islands in the Gulf which Iran annexed 8 years ago. It concerns the Great and Little Tumb and Abu Musa which earlier belonged to the emirats of Ras al-Khaima and Sharjah. The representative stressed that Iran no longer was an expansionistic state, and that all

former policies would be re-evaluated. (SWB 4-4, 1979).

RETURN OF PILOT BY THE PFLO

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman has handed over Flt-Lt Bandar Ali Ashrafat, an Iranian pilot whose aircraft was shot down by the ground defence forces of the PFLO people's liberation army during the Anglo-Iranian campaign against PFLO forces in Arab Dhofar in 1975, to the Islamic Government of Iran following an agreement with the leadership of the Oman revolution. (Aden Voice of Oman Revolution 11 May 79, cited in SWB 5-14,1979).

NEWS FROM THE SUPPORT WORK

In first part of May the Copenhagen branch of the Danish Emmaus held their 3rd flea market. All 3 flea markets were very successful. Each one had a turnover of 17, - 18,000 Danish kroner (app.$ 4,000). The group supports the PFLO with the surplus from the flea markets, and sends the clothes it collects to ZANU. In addition to the collecting activities for the flea markets during the week-ends the group holds one meeting every 2nd week where the activities are planned. The group also has started a study-circle.

During the coming summer holiday season the Danish Emmaus will arrange 3 summer camps in cooperation with 2 other support organizations: "Clothes for Africa" and "Birkum Clothes Shop". The camps will support PFLO and ZANU.

A new anti-imperialistic organization, called the Cloth Collecting Group International Solidarity, has been started in Denmark. The group supports PFLO and ZANU.

Shipments: In the beginning of 1979 two large shipments of medicine valued at 50,000 Danish kroner (app. $ 10,000) were sent to the Omani Red Crescent. The shipments were paid by the Danish Emmaus. Furthermore 2 new landrovers have been sent to the Omani Women's Organization, and other shipments for the Cultural Centre of the Women's Organization are in preparation. The women's project is financed by a number of support organizations: Emmaus Fnysinge, Comité Catholique contre la Faim et pour le Dévelopment (Paris), The Cloth Collecting Group International Solidarity, the Flea Market Group in Ollerup and others. The project is coordinated by KROAG. Develop-

ment Aid from People to People has sent a wind-water pump for the PFLO.

SUPPORT THE OMANI WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION (OWO)

The Omani Women's Organization has started building a Cultural Centre for women. The activities of the centre will include teaching, reading and writing, a workroom for dressmaking, a mother and child clinic, a kindergarden, and various kinds of information work. The OWO needs a number of things in order to carry on with their projects in the Cultural Centre, and their other mass-work. 2 landrovers have already been sent, and in the near future some Arabic typewriters, audio-visual equipment, clothes for the children, vitamins, toys, refrigerators, and other things will be sent. A number of support organizations in Scandinavia and France are going to finance this project which is coordinated by KROAG.

You can support the OWO by paying money by check or giro to: "Support the People of the World", Box 86, 1003 Copenhagen K, Denmark, Danish Giro 7 3o 33 oo.

The establishment of the Cultural Centre is a great leap forward for the Omani Women's Organization. OWO is trying to mobilize the Omani women to fight against their traditional roles in society, and to engage themselves in political, educational, cultural, and military activities. The military setback at the end of 1975 affected the women especially hard, and many of them became passive. Therefore the PFLO gives top-priority to the work carried out by the OWO.

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